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## More reverberations from Jamaica

Like a flash of vivid lightning, the July 4th armed attack on the house of a U.S. diplomat in Jamaica revealed how vulnerable American officials are abroad when they are publicly identified, rightly or wrongly, as CIA officers.

The reverberations from this near-tragedy are being felt in the administration, the Congress and the press. For the first time since the assassination of the CIA station chief in Greece five years ago, there is a new sense of urgency that U.S. intelligence officers undercover overseas need better protection than existing laws provide.

Two days before Richard Kinsman's residence in Kingston was assaulted, he had been identified as the CIA station chief by Louis Wolf, co-editor of the *Cover Action Information Bulletin* published in Washington. In his press conference in Jamaica, Wolf also fingered 14 other U.S. diplomats as CIA officials and publicized their addresses and license plates.

Luckily, Kinsman escaped injury but most of the named diplomats and their families have had to be withdrawn for their own protection. On his return to Washington, Wolf denied any intent to provoke violence. He implied that the CIA had stage-managed the incident and charged the agency with attempting to destabilize Jamaican democracy.

Wolf has since refused to discuss his motivation with this reporter but it is no secret that Philip Agee is the guiding genius behind the *Bulletin's* revelations. Agee is on its board of advisers and it was Agee who first began the process of naming CIA officers,

in his book published after his resignation from the agency. The *Bulletin* is lavish in its praise of Agee for "reforming" U.S. intelligence by destroying its overseas presence.

The *Bulletin's* editors are discreetly silent about the fact that the British government expelled Agee in 1977 for maintaining "regular contacts harmful to the security of the U.K. with foreign intelligence officers." The suspicion is well-founded that these contacts were with Russian-KGB agents.

Whether they are incredibly naive reformers or something more dangerous, the *Bulletin's* editors have learned their tactics from Agee. Each issue of the *Bulletin* identifies a long list of U.S. officials abroad as CIA officers, endangering their lives, ruining their careers and destroying their usefulness in any but the most friendly countries. This cumulative destruction of talent carefully trained at the expense of the American taxpayer, if allowed to continue, can reduce U.S. intelligence to impotence in coping with the ubiquitous KGB.

In addition to this scatter-shot strategy, the *Bulletin* editors have now also learned from Agee how to use an even more damaging rifle-shot technique, which concentrates their resources on a particular country at a moment of acute political crisis in the rivalry between Marxist and democratic parties. For example, Agee turned up in Portugal in the summer of 1975, just as the abortive communist bid for power was at its height, to charge CIA intervention and to identify U.S. diplomats as CIA agents.

A year later, during the 1976 election campaign in Jamaica, Agee suddenly appeared on the scene to help Michael Manley's People's National Party win the election with a barrage of alleged CIA identities and charges of agency manipulation. Wolf's recent trip to Jamaica seems to have been an attempt to repeat Agee's success of four years ago.

These scare tactics are less likely to work the second time around. Manley's mismanagement of the economy is the real issue on the Jamaican election. Edward Seaga's Jamaica Labor Party is so far ahead in the polls that the only country with a motive to intervene would be Castro's Cuba in a desperate attempt to prevent the defeat of its principal Caribbean ally.

Although Wolf's crude intervention may have little effect on Jamaican politics, it has stirred up a hornet's nest among members of Congress. They do not want to be held responsible through negligence for the death of another CIA official and they fear that in the absence of remedial legislation, the *Bulletin* may succeed through its sequential revelations in accomplishing the destruction of the agency's overseas presence.

In both the House and

Senate intelligence committees, there is now broad bipartisan support for specific legislation that would not only provide criminal sanctions against present and former government officials who reveal agent identities but also against those like the editors of the *Bulletin* who publish such identities in a systematic attempt to damage the American intelligence capability.

The Republican platform clearly calls for such legislation, and the Carter administration has been jolted out of its lethargy by the near-miss in Jamaica to the point that it is now pushing for a carefully-drafted Department of Justice bill that protects the First Amendment rights of a free press while allowing prosecution of those who abuse those rights.

A new law will not prevent continuing KGB attempts to expose American intelligence officers, but at least those on the front line will no longer have to fear attack from the rear by their fellow citizens.

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